

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 2, 4, 7, 14, 16 and 19 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein.

Please amend Claims 5, 6, 17 and 18 as follows. Note that all the claims currently pending in this application have been reproduced below for the Examiner's convenience.

1. (Previously Amended) A method for manufacturing an airtight vessel, comprising the steps of:

- F1
- a) fabricating an airtight vessel connected to an evacuation tube;
 - b) evacuating the inside of the airtight vessel through the evacuation tube while simultaneously baking the entire airtight vessel,
 - c) activating a getter disposed in the airtight vessel; and
 - d) after initiating the evacuation step, in a condition where the getter is activated, continuing the evacuation step and sealing the evacuation tube by heating the evacuation tube.

2. (Cancelled).

4. (Cancelled).

F2

5. (Currently Amended) A method for manufacturing an airtight vessel according to Claim 4 1, wherein steps (b) and (c) are simultaneously performed the evacuation

~~step is executed simultaneously with at least the getter activation step along with being executed while the vessel is heated.~~

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6. (Currently Amended) A method for manufacturing an airtight vessel according to Claim 2 1, wherein step (c) is started after step (b) is started ~~the evacuation step is executed prior to the getter activation step.~~

7. (Cancelled).

F3

8. (Original) A method for manufacturing an airtight vessel according to Claim 1, wherein the getter is a nonevaporable getter.

9. (Original) A method for manufacturing an airtight vessel according to Claim 8, further comprising the step of reactivating the nonevaporable getter after the baking step.

10. (Original) A method for manufacturing an airtight vessel according to Claim 8, further comprising a getter flash step of activating an evaporable getter after the baking step.

11. (Original) A method for manufacturing an airtight vessel according to Claim 10, further comprising the step of degassing the evaporable getter by heating the evaporable getter prior to the getter flash step.

12. (Original) A method for manufacturing an airtight vessel according to Claim 11, wherein the degassing step is executed prior to the baking step.

13. (Previously Amended) A method for manufacturing an image-forming apparatus using an airtight vessel containing a plurality of electron emission elements and image-forming members comprising the steps of:

- a) fabricating an airtight vessel connected to an evacuation tube;
- b) evacuating the inside of the airtight vessel through the evacuation tube while simultaneously baking the entire airtight vessel,
- c) activating a getter disposed in the airtight vessel; and
- d) after initiating the evacuation step, in a condition where the getter is activated, continuing the evacuation step and sealing the evacuation tube by heating the evacuation tube.

14. (Cancelled).

16. (Cancelled).

17. (Currently Amended) A method for manufacturing the image-forming apparatus according to Claim ~~16~~ 13, wherein steps (b) and (c) are simultaneously performed ~~the evacuation step is executed simultaneously with at least the getter activation step along with being executed while the vessel is heated.~~

18. (Currently Amended) A method for manufacturing the image-forming apparatus according to Claim ~~14~~ ¹³, wherein step (c) is started after step (b) is started the ~~evacuation step is executed prior to the getter activation step.~~

19. (Cancelled).

20. (Original) A method for manufacturing the image-forming apparatus according to Claim 13, wherein the getter is a nonevaporable getter.

21. (Original) A method for manufacturing the image-forming apparatus according to Claim 20, further comprising the step of reactivating the nonevaporable getter after the baking step.

22. (Original) A method for manufacturing the image-forming apparatus according to Claim 20, further comprising a getter flash step of activating an evaporable getter after the baking step.

23. (Original) A method for manufacturing the image-forming apparatus according to Claim 22, further comprising the step of degassing the evaporable getter by heating the evaporable getter prior to the getter flash step.

24. (Original) A method for manufacturing the image-forming apparatus according to Claim 23, wherein the degassing step is executed prior to the baking step.

25. (Previously Added) A method for manufacturing an airtight vessel, comprising the steps of:

- a) fabricating an airtight vessel connected to an evacuation tube;
- b) evacuating the inside of the airtight vessel through the evacuation tube;
- c) activating a non-evaporable getter disposed in the airtight vessel before baking the airtight vessel;
- d) baking the entire airtight vessel and sealing the evacuation tube;

and

- e) after baking the entire airtight vessel, reactivating the non-evaporable getter.

26. (Previously Added) A method for manufacturing an airtight vessel, comprising the steps of:

- a) fabricating an airtight vessel connected to an evacuation tube;
- b) evacuating the inside of the airtight vessel through the evacuation tube;
- c) baking the entire airtight vessel;
- d) degassing an evaporable getter during the baking step;
- e) activating a non-evaporable getter after the degassing step and during the baking step;

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- f) sealing the evacuation tube during the baking step; and
 - g) after the baking step, activating the evaporable getter.
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